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10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

March 5, 2003

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The Honorable Kofi Annan  
Secretary General  
United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I am writing to request that you appoint a special envoy to respond to hunger crises throughout the world. U.N. special envoys have served in similar capacities over the years to respond to various crises, including AIDS and hunger.

As you know, hunger is rampant throughout the world. It is devastating Africa, North Korea, Argentina and has reached into all corners of the globe. One of the worst cases is the current situation in Africa.

Africa is on the brink of a crisis of biblical proportions. Thirty million people are at risk of malnutrition and starvation in Africa alone. This is on top of the HIV/AIDS crisis that is consuming resources that would otherwise be devoted to famine relief. When I traveled to Ethiopia and Eritrea earlier this year, I saw first-hand the bloated bellies and weak limbs of the children. I was reminded of the devastation I saw when I was in Ethiopia during the 1984-1985 famine.

African countries, in particular, are suffering from donor fatigue and a lack of attention. The flood of international news has kept the reality of this situation away from people in many western countries.

North Korea and central Asia also teeter on the brink of crises. If there is a war in Iraq, supply lines for food will almost certainly be interrupted. For such a fragile region, this type of interruption could prove devastating. In North Korea, there are reports that up to 80 percent of the humanitarian relief never reaches the North Korean people. If left unchecked, thousands of North Koreans' lives could be in jeopardy.

Even in Argentina -- once a middle-class Latin American country -- hunger is now widespread. Hospitals are regularly treating diseases caused by lack of protein and poor nutrition. Children are dying of malnutrition, and in some communities relief organizations have classified 90 percent of the children as undernourished. This is especially tragic for a country that has more livestock than people.

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This is a global crisis, demanding a global response. No one country can meet these needs. For example, in 2002, the United States contributed 51 percent compared to the EC and Europe's combined contribution of 27 percent of the donations to the UN World Food Programme. Many countries have the ability to give more, and may just be waiting to be asked. (Enclosed is a chart detailing the top 10 contributors in 2002 to the UN World Food Programme). Time, resources and attention must be devoted to mobilizing and coordinating the resources required.

I know you are sensitive to the millions of women and children whose lives hang in the balance and appreciate the time and resources you have already dedicated to this effort. Your emissary could provide a necessary and appropriate global response. A special envoy could devote the resources necessary to overcome the donor fatigue that is facing many African nations.

Under your direction, a special envoy could be charged with:

- mobilizing the financial and material resources required.
- coordinating the international organizations to achieve mutual reinforcement and unity of effort.
- developing an integrated plan and providing operational direction to the individual agencies and players.
- removing obstacles to the timely flow of relief resources.

This position is critical to re-energizing the global community, refocusing attention on this situation, and most importantly, saving millions of lives around the world. Again, I request that you appoint a special envoy to specifically address issues of hunger and famine throughout the world. Your attention through these dedicated resources will send a loud and clear message to the international community about the gravity of this situation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you need any additional information, please contact Courtney Haller on my staff at (202) 225-5136.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress

FRW:ch

This would save lives.  
Thank you

## 2002 Contributions to the World Food Program, Top 10 Donors

<u>Country</u>	<u>Contribution, \$</u>	<u>% Change From 2001</u>	<u>% of Total Contributions to WFP</u>	<u>Contributions Per Capita, \$</u>
1. USA	928,788,992	-23	51.4	3.3
2. EC	178,463,574	+42	9.9	.5
3. UK	95,727,303	+246	5.3	1.6
4. Japan	92,619,864	+2	5.1	.7
5. Germany	60,295,707	+4	3.3	.7
6. Netherlands	58,793,491	-1	3.3	3.7
7. Australia	50,290,918	+41	2.8	2.6
8. Canada	47,873,683	+24	2.7	1.5
9. Norway	45,782,968	+25	2.5	10.2
10. Denmark	40,046,680	+2	2.2	7.4

The top 10 donors provided 88.5% of contributions to WFP in 2002.

The top 10 donors per capita were, in order: Norway, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, USA, Ireland, and Australia.

### Contributions to WFP's Southern African Region Emergency Operation, Top 5 Donors As of 3 Feb 2003

Total appeal is for \$ 508 million to assist over 10 million beneficiaries in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe through 3/31/03.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Contribution, \$</u>	<u>% of Appeal</u>
1. USA	136,977,422	26.92
2. EC-EuropeAid	64,121,076	12.60
3. UK	28,409,089	5.58
4. Japan	21,490,911	4.22
5. South Africa	20,000,000	3.93

### Contributions to WFP's Great Lakes Region Operation, Top 5 Donors As of 27 Jan 2003

Total appeal was for \$167 million to assist 1.12 million people in Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda through 1/31/03 including refugees, internally displaced persons, and conflict victims.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Contribution, \$</u>	<u>% of Appeal</u>
1. USA*	80,325,448	47.97
2. EC-ECHO	28,249,649	16.87
3. Japan	3,731,343	2.23
4. Norway	2,856,615	1.71
5. Switzerland	1,406,235	.84

### Contributions to WFP's Ethiopia Emergency Operation for Small-Scale Farmers and Drought-Affected Pastoralists, Top 5 Donors

As of 27 Jan 2003

Total appeal is for \$ 162 million to assist 3.2 million small-scale farmers and drought-affected pastoralists through 3/31/03. This is not WFP's only operation in Ethiopia.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Contribution, \$</u>	<u>% of Appeal</u>
1. USA	71,994,909	44.31
2. UK	23,437,500	14.43
3. EC-EuropeAid	4,916,421	3.03
4. Netherlands	3,933,137	2.42
5. Italy	2,949,853	1.82

Contributions to WFP's West Africa Coastal Operation, Top 5 Donors

As of 3 Feb 2003

Total appeal was for \$ 62 million to assist 835,000 refugees, internally displaced persons and returning refugees in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire through 12/31/02.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Contribution, \$</u>	<u>% of Appeal</u>
1. USA*	24,851,363	39.85
2. EC-EuropeAid	12,219,355	19.60
3. Japan	3,731,343	5.98
4. Germany	2,879,084	4.62
5. Sweden	827,224	1.33

\*Note: USA contribution includes resources earmarked for this operation plus resources given to WFP to use at its discretion.